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for Jeffs Second inauguration night for Wainfleet's mayor loses its first-time magic Page 3

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NEWS **INPORT**

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UPFRONT

MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS: Port Colborne city council sworn into office

Maloney takes the helm

MARYANNE FIRTH OMI Agency Niagara

John Maloney broke down in tears as he placed his hand upon his family bible.

It's the same holy book the Port Colborne man has used in the past while taking an oath of office, and Monday night the radiition continued. As the former member of Parliament was sworn in as the lakeside city's new mayor, he had to pause in an attempt to contain his emotions. But the significance of the

evening and the presence of his family proved too much for the 69-year-old. After letting tears flow he

After letting tears flow he shared a laugh with the standing room-only crowd and then opened the floor to allow each councillor the opportunity to give thanks to their supporters.

Maloney then began his

inaugural address, sharing his vision for the upcoming term. While taking the helm of Port Colborne is a privilege, it

is "also a great responsibility," he told the packed gallery. "I commit myself to serving the citizens of our community to the best of my ability with

energy, pride and integrity."

Maloney committed to
being "fair, pragmatic, but
aways a community activist"
and said he will "remain wed-

ded to my core principles of equality and justice." He told councillors he is looking forward to "pooling our individual strengths and uniting to serve the best interest of our city."

He also stressed the importance of interacting with upper-tier levels of government "to ensure Port Colborne gets the maximum amount from any of the programs available to us."

Council has the "monumental task" of addressing a number of issues this term, Maloney said. Focuses, he added, include replacing aging water and sewer lines in the city, some of which are "on the verge of collapse," providing serviced industrial lands



Port Colborne Mayor John Maloney shares a laugh with the crowd after breaking down in tears while being sworn into office during Monday night's meeting.

munities'

to retain and attract new business, nurturing the growing arts community, encouraging new home construction, monitoring and reducing the city's debt load and addressing poverty within the com-

munity.

Maloney said the fight will
also continue to maintain
health-care services in the
area, which includes keeping a full-service hospital in

Welland

He hopes to explore "the concept of relationship building, forging partnerships and seeking opportunities to perhaps share services and costs with our neighbouring com-

Maloney is eager to roll up his sleeves and get to work with the city's new council, all returning to their seats except for newcomer Ward 1 Coun. John Mayne.

ing is scheduled for Dec. 8 followed by council's first public meeting on Dec. 15. maryame.firth@sunmedia.ca

Twitter: @mfirthTribune

MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS: Seamless transition to next term for Wainfleet's mayor

Swearing-in ceremonies old hat for Jeffs

OMI Agency Niagara

These days, you're not likely to find April Jeffs rifling through the racks in search of a fancy dress like you would have four years ago.

That was when a political neophyte had been elected mayor of Wainfleet, and she was looking forward to all the pomp and pageantry that

While Wainfleet's swearing-in ceremony was a somewhat low-key affair, the then 37-year-old opted to treat herself to a new dress for Niagara Region's gala, its swearing-in ceremony that commenced with a bagpiper and followed with a special dinner.

associated with being sworn in as mayor and regional councillor a second time but

hey, sequels never do measure up to the originals. leffs, at inaugural meetings. will be ceremoniously sworn onto regional council Dec. 11.

then for the township council "I'm excited about it ... but last time, it was 'Wow!" she

Elected officials are actually sworn in before Dec. 1, just in case something happens from the time the previous councils' reigns end. Kind of like a city hall marriage before the big wedding in Jamaica. Jeffs' boys, Gordy, 14, and in attendance for the Wainfleet ceremonies, not those of the region. They've been

there, done that, too. In the hour prior to being sworn in for a second term at township hall, council's formal individual and group

photos will be taken. Jeffs will later give her inaugural address at the meeting that starts at 7 p.m. What will she say? "I haven't thought about it yet," she says, adding it will likely have a theme about

councillors working collabo-

That's not to say the next term of township council will be all about peace, love and She looks forward to times

again when elected officials will but beads over issues "You can't just rubberstamp everything."

Still, if the past four years are any indication - and they should be - there will be some sense of harmony. "I don't want to say we're family here, but we kind of are. It's sort of that small town

thing." In contrast to fall 2010 when Ted Hessels was the only returning political figure on council, Terry Gilmore is the only new face for 2014-18.

That gives Jeffs a sense that her council is already "settled," with little new to learn own routine over the past

Gilmore himself has served on municipal committees and has a good feel for operations,

Councillors had their orientation session last Wednes-"It's not going to be this big

learning curve or anything, but it's a good update, a good refresher Topics were to include an

update on Wainfleet's septic inspection program. Council's first business meeting will be Jan. 6, when a switch will be made to holding meetings every third Tuesday. instead of every other week. leffs herself has forced her uling her photography business work around her munic. ipal obligations. She has scaled down the number of weddings she shoots to about three a year, but still finds time for portrait requests, It's a "nice outlet" after weekdays in the office

Although in most respects there really is no transition period for Wainfleet's council this time around, "it seems like there's this unspoken newness," she says, suggesting a bit of similarity to start-

ing a new grade year But it will be a familiar routine. One for which new school clothes, it seems, are not required.

COUNCIL

Port Colborne mayor, councillor say goodbye

MARYANNE FIRTH OMI Agency Niagara

Mayor Vance Badawey and Ward 1 Coun, Bill Steele left behind a legacy not soon to be forgotten in Port Colborne's council chambers. The duo, the only two

members of the lakeside city's council not returning, were showered with praise during the final meeting of the 2010-14 term on Nov. 24.

Each councillor took time to share memories of the men who have each held roles in municipalgovernment for 17 years Many tears were shed, as well were a few laughs.

istrative If the words of their colofficer Bob leagues were any indication, Heil gave a heartfelt

Chief

admin-

speech to Badawey, who he described VANCE as someone who "eats.

sleeps and breathes Port Colborne." "There was never a word that wasn't in support of or promotion in the name of this city," he said, calling Badawey

the most dedicated and determined mayor he bas encountered in his 40-year career. 'This is the second time I've had to do this," Badawey noted as he readied to say his goodbyes. He took a three-year break from municipal politics in 2003 after an unsuccessful hid to become a member of provincial parliament

And while he initially said it "does become easier," it was a statement he retracted later in the evening as emotions ran high.

*In two words — it's very simple guys, thank you," Badawey said, crediting council, city staff and the community's volunteers for making his time at city hall what it was. Thank you for 17 wonderful years. It's been a great

ride Though people living in Port Collhorne may not see it the lakeside city has a strong identity beyond its borders, one councillors and the community should take pride in.

he sold "We are the little city that Never one to shy away from controversy. Steele relied on the words of Winston Church-

ill to sum up his time in office. "You have enemies? Good. That means you stood up for something sometime in your life," he told a crowd as he took to the podium.

to pause at times to compose himself. Steele called it a priv-

During an emotional speech, through which he had ilege to have served the neo-

ale of Port Colhorne for the past 17 years. He took time to thank his family, including his wife,

three sons and parents, for their continued support that allowed him to pursue his political career, and highlighted the efforts of past and present staff who worked to make Port Colborne a great place to live, raise a family and run a business

After delivering heartfelt remarks to each councillor Steele turned his attention to Badawey.

"Vance, you served this city beyond expectations," he

"You truly want to see the best for Port Colborne and I believe you have achieved more than anyone can ask of

their mayor." Badawey, gesturing to mayor-elect John Maloney and incoming Ward 1 Coun. John Mayne in the gallery,

said the community is now "moving forward with new leadership. But before his departure, he had one final request. "Just take care of our

beloved community," he said, choking back tears Take care of the commu-

nity we work so hard for. Keen promoting, progressing and working hard

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I'VE BEEN THINKING

The Bible is the inspired word of God Himself

Faith & St. Peter's Lutheran churches. Dunrwille and Port Colhorne

s in other areas of life, when some to extremes

On the one hand, some believe that the bible is so complicated that either no one can really understand it, or only scholars have the right to interpret it, or even that everyone's interpretation is valid, true and equal because understanding the Bible is all about guesswork and feelings.

On the other hand, some people believe the bible is easy to understand and wonder

why people argue about it. (In this column I am only writing about people, like me, who believe that the Bible is the inspired, inerrant, word-for-word Word of

God Himself) In reality, the Bible, Holy Scripture, is at the same time difficult and easy, but not too dif-

ficult or too easy. What I mean is that the Bible is simple enough for a little child to understand it and deep enough that you could study it for a thousand lifetimes and still not plumb the depths of it. Remember, it is God's Word to

Anyone who says that it's too difficult to understand is implying that God is not smart enough, good enough or loving enough to communicate clearly (God forbid that any Christian would think that). Anyone who says that it's completely easy to understand is implying that either God is only talking about everyday, earthly things, or is not the author (God forbid that any Christian would think

To those who are confused by much in the Bible, or who wonder why so many people and churches have many conflicting interpretations, let me comfort you and give you some direction. I'll start with some basics of interpreting God's Word, all based on what God Himself says about His Word.

1. Each verse, chapter, book and the wbole bible must be interpreted from the perspective of what God says it is. The narrative parts must be understood as actual history (Genesis, Exodus, Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, and Acts are good examples). The visions and dreams, signs and symbols must be understood as symbolic, not as literal history (parts of Ezekiel and all of Revelation are good examples). The parables must be seen as stories that teach, not as historical events. The poetry should be seen as containing

both history and symbols (Psalms is a good example). You will often find that the history contains other types of literature; for example. God gives Peter a vision in the book of Acts, so while the vision itself does not depict a historical event, what Peter did before and after he received the vision is actual history. You must interpret each part of God's Word the way that God presents it.

2. Scripture interprets Scripture. If a person interprets the one part of the bible in a way that contradicts other parts of the Bible, that interpretation must be wrong (God does not contradict Himself). On a given topic, the clearer parts of the Bible explain the more complicated parts. The plain explanation of something will help make clear the meaning of visions, symbols and parables.

3. Context, context, context! Ignoring the context of a verse, passage, chapter, book or testament (old or new) is, in my experience, the most common error which leads to many other misinterpretations. Never just read something and think you understand. Read what comes before and after. Find out the purpose of the book, who the author was writing to and why. Seek to understand the differences and continuity between the Old and New Testaments

Let me give you an example, Did Iesus

announced to the shepherds that Jesus would bring "peace on earth, goodwill toward men (Luke 2:14)," but Jesus said He had "not come to bring peace, but a sword (Matthew 10:34)." This sure seems to be a contradiction, but context explains it clearly - check it out for yourself. The angels were talking about the newborn Saviour who had come to bring peace between God and mankind. Jesus was talking about the division that happens between believers and unbelievers within

families. 4. See Christ everywhere. All the Old Testament points to and prepares for the Saviour to come, and the New Testament points to the Saviour who has come. Iesus is not only the centre, but also the content of the whole Rible

5. A fuller, clearer understanding of a word or passage must take into consideration grammar and the meaning(s) of words in the original languages in which the bible was written. Your pastor should be able to help

you with this one. Much more could be said, but let this be enough to help you focus on how God presents His holy Word for our comfort. forgiveness, wisdom and knowledge to life everlasting.

Shipwrecks – Henry H. Rogers

SKIP GILLHAM

For OMI Agency Niagara ge, plus hull damage, forced the

end of the sailing career of the Henry H. Rogers in 1973. By then the 67-year-old bulk carrier was becoming a borderline vessel in the

United States Steel fleet. The ship had been built at Chicago in 1906 and named for one of the original 24-man board members of U.S. Steel. It operated in the ore and coal trades and

set some early cargo records. These included a then Lake Superior record for iron ore, taking on 11,486 tonnes at Two Harbors, Minn., on Aug. 4,

Later, at Conneaut, Ohio, in June 1929. the vessel discharged 12,000 tonnes of ore in two hours, 35 minutes. This was almost an hour faster than usual and barely left enough time to load groceries for the trip back up the lakes.

The Henry H. Rogers hit bottom while backing from the unloading dock at Gary, Ind., on July 12, 1973, and then struck the breakwall. In earlier days, this would have been easy to repair, but the company had another similar ship in long term lay-up so when the Henry H. Rogers reached Duluth, it was laid up and the crew transferred to the laid up freighter.

The damaged vessel, with no bone of repairs, was broken up for scrap in 1975.



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Santa's Helpers could use your help

OMI Agency Niagara

The holiday elves are busy in Port Colborne these days. But they can use more help - especially in the area of gift-

giving. It's essential to ensure that the Santa's Helpers program can continue to put toys under trees and food at the table for households in need. says longtime chairman Shel-

ley Tamas Santa's helpers is the main Christmas gift-giving program for Port Colborne and Wainfleet, but more and more it finds itself competing with similar programs, she says.

The independent, nonprofit organization that dates back to 1967 last year provided for 345 households, says co-ordinator Mieke Van Es. who for the past month has

WHERE TO DONATE

Community Living, 100 McRae Ave., until Dec. 19. 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Remax Realty, 149 Clarence St., during office

TD Bank, 148 Clarence St., during business hours By mail: c/o treasurer Lynne Goulet, 313, Clarence St., L3K 3G9; make cheques payable to Santa's Helpers 2014 (official receipts will be

Mieke Van Es at 905-834-

For more information: call been housing and stockpiling toy donations in a spare room in her basement for this holi-

She's also started shopping - buying local whenever possible, and in doing so getting generous sayings from some of the local retailers.

Also growing is a pile of slippers and hats knitted by a local church - at last count topping 300 donations Tamas and Van Es expect this year's need for support to be similar to last year.

In recent years, Van Es says, more single-parent families have been turning to Santa's Helpers for assistance, as well as working poor families, *A lot of people are working for minimum wage, and aren't getting much," she says.

While they may have ma aged to cope with limited incomes throughout the year. there are greater demands on their dollars during the

colder months and at Christ-

Sadly, Van Es says, the people most deserving of the program are passing on it, be that because of pride or a feeling that there are others more in need of help and they should be catered to first.

"The real, real needy don't come," she says. Toys, food and vouchers will be distributed starting Dec. 12 to people who register with Community Living

Port Colborne-Wainfleet on McRae Ave. Individuals and businesses wanting to support the program should know that what's typically in short supply is gifts for girls and boys aged 12

to 16, and boys nine to 11, "We do give gift certificates, but we like to give a little something extra," says Pat



Meike Van Es. a co-ordinator for the Santa's Helper's gift and food giving program, is pictured among some of the items that will find their way under Christmas trees in Port Colborne and Wainfleet this year.

Harriettha, who tends to the the younger ones." toy component of the Santa's greg.furminger@sunmedia.ca Helper's program. "We're pretty much set for Twitter: @GregAtTheTrib

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ONTARIO

Port Colborne seeks property tax relief for seniors

MARYANNE FIRTH QMI Agency Niagara

Yvon Doucet wants the provincial government to cut seniors some slack. Last week, Port Colborne's Ward 2 councillor proposed asking the lakeside city to put its support behind the call for changes to property taxes that would mean relief for sen-

While on the election campaign trail earlier this year, Doucet said, he encountered many seniors who expressed concern that high property taxes, as well as increasing utility rates, might force them to sell their homes.

Many seniors, he said, live on a fixed income, some at the poverty level, once retired.

"There has to be a way here in the province of Ontario that

we can recognize what senior citizens have done for us," Doucet said during the final council meeting of the four-

year term.
"This may be one way of doing that."
He admitted he didn't

He admitted he didn't know the exact answer to the problem, but said he hoped to "get a discussion going" in an effort to find a solution. "Let's send this out to everyone. Have everyone to about it," he said.

"If we won't bring it up, if we don't start a discussion, we will never get it done." The motion supported by council calls on the Ontario government to develop a new system of calculating property taxes, which in addition

to assessed property value would take into consideration

age and income.

was in support of the motion, due in part to the "housing crunch" that exists in Niagara. "There is not a lot of affordable housing out there. There's none out there for seniors to move into," she said.

part, Coun. Angie Desmarais.

none out there for seniors to move into," she said. "We need to find a way to keep them in their homes safely until there is an opportunity for them to move on i

they want to."

The resolution will be forwarded for support to the premier's office, Ontario's Minister of Finance, local members
of provincial parliament, the
Association of Municipalities
of Ontario, Niagara Region
and local municipalities.

maryanne.firth@sunmedia.ca Twitter:@mfirthTribune



■ HEALTH: 'Our board is committed' to project says NHS chair Dr. Barry Wright

Plans for south Niagara hospital moving ahead

QMI Agency Niagara

The \$26.2-million planning process for a south Niagara hospital on the outskirts of Niagara Falls is going "full steam ahead," says Niagara Falls Mayor lim Diodati.

Niagara Health System recently formed a planning committee to steet the organization through the planning grant process to look at both a new hospital at Montrose and Lyon's Creek Rds.

and two urgent-care centres. The committee is comprised of representatives from NHS, Hamilton-Niagara-Haldimand-Brant Local Health Integration Network, and other exter-

nal stakeholders. "The city is at the table to make sure

we're proactive in any planning and development," the mayor said. "We want to make sure we're in sync

with the development going forward. NHS officials said future planning for the new hospital is "on track and moving ahead."

These collaborative efforts mark the beginning steps NHS has taken to ensure that the Niagara region will have the best health-care delivery system possible for its communities," Dr. Barry Wright, NHS board chairman, said of the new steening committee.

"Our board is committed and we are pleased to report NHS planning progress as being right on track."

NHS chief executive officer Kevin Smith in 2012 recommended closing existing south Niagara hospitals and replacing them with a single new hospital to be built in Niagara Falls.

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well as Minister of Health and Long-Term Care Eric Hoskins, and said he's pleased with the "process and direction" of the planning process.

"The idea is we're going to end up with more accessible and better health care at a better price."

The planning process can take up to 24 months Last month, a group of 3,000 people

from communities across the province including Welland, Niagara-on-the-Lake and Port Colborne met at Oueen's Park in Toronto to protest the anticipated closures of their respective hospitals.

Welland Mayor Frank Campion. chairman of the city's bealth-care committee, had boped to attend to rally, but it fell on the same day as his city coun-

cil orientation meeting. Campion supports keeping the status quo — a hospital in Welland, one in Niagara Falls and one in St. Catharines. "I'm not saying don't build a hospi-

tal but Niagara needs a three-hospital system Ministry spokesman David Jensen said the rally - as well as any future

protests - will not affect status of planning for south Niagara hospital. The NHS submitted a proposed budget for the planning work in June

2014 and the ministry has processed the first \$2.6-million payment to NHS for 2014-15 in accordance with this budget,"

Festival Lights

Fireworks over the Falls

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Events This Weekend

While he empathizes with people opposed to a new hospital in Niagara Falls, Diodati maintains it is "a step in the

HOSPITAL

A billboard stands at the corner of Lyons Creek and Montrose rds. touting the 12-hectare property as the future site of a south Niagara hospital. Planning for the hospital is going "full steam ahead," Mayor Jim Dindati said

right direction" for all of Niagara. "I'm confident that this plan going forward is going to bring us better health care in Niagara. There are going to be some growing pains and we're not all going to like everything but this is the

night direction." An online forum will soon be launched at www.niagarahealth. on.ca/future to provide an overview of plans, when and where community engagement events will be held, as well as a snace for residents to ask questions and provide feedback. "As these upcoming changes

reflect a new and positive direction for health care, the NHS will continue to communicate with our community members as frequently as possible, and will also undergo robust public engagement and participation during the different phases of planning for the new hospital and urgentcare centres," said NHS president, Dr. Suzanne Johnston.

"We are committed to ensuring that all aspirations and concerns

have been identified before the new site is built "

The province in January committed \$26.2 million towards the planning of a new hospital. The grant also supports two urgent-

care centres in south Niagara. Niagara Falls city council has agreed to commit \$22 million towards the project.

Fort Erie town council bas pledged \$3 million.

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WEST NIAGARA: Women's group trying to stop plans for massive wind farm

Turbine opponents fighting uphill battle

OMI Agency Niagara

As it said it would, an advocacy group has appealed the decision to allow a 77-turbine wind farm to be built in west Niagara.

But it says it has no illusions about its chances of winning. A preliminary hearing for a tribunal that could overturn the wind farm approval has been scheduled for Dec. 19 at the Wellandport

Community Centre That building, on Canborough Rd. in Smithville, has become a key site in the wind turbine debate, with numerous public meetings held there as progress on the massive development continued to slowly

moved forward. Niagara Region Wind Corp. was given the green light to proceed with its industrial wind turbine project in early November. when the Ministry of the Environment issued its Renewable

Energy Approval. The project calls for 77 threemegawatt turbines to be built in West Lincoln, Lincoln and Wainfleet. The total development has a capacity of 230 MW, enough to power 70,000 homes and make it the fifth-largest wind farm in

North America At the time of the approval, NRWC chief executive officer

was moving forward with "very detailed construction design

"We're getting into the real micro-detailing of the project. he said.

Two weeks after the approval was issued, Mothers Against Wind Turbines filed an appeal Board member Linda Rogers said members are fighting "to protect children and families

wind turbine emissions But Rogers was candid Saturday about what she sees as the slim hope of victory the advocacy

"I've lost track of how many tribunals there have been, and we're basically batting zero," said Rogers, who figures there have been 20 to 30 appeals lost in Ontario "The tribunals are destined to fail, The

level of proof we have to muster is not just beyond the ability of a person in the public, it's beyond Health Canada and

eyond the knowledge of science right now" she said In its notice issued Friday to announce the bearing. Environment and Land Tri-

in our communities against the bunals Ontario wrote that the purpose of the hearing is to review the approval and consider if the project will "cause serious harm to human health or serious and irreversible harm to plant life, animal life or the natural environment."

If the tribunal feels harm could be caused by the project, it could overrule the approval or alter what was approved. Requests for comment from the NRWC were not immediately returned.

Rogers said even though the odds are stacked against them, Mothers Against

Wind Turbines is willing to keep fighting "Why do it? Because it's the right thing to do. If we don't do it, who will? We expect to lose, but we're doing it with open eyes," she said.

"Our hope is that it will go to a higher level of court, because you have a right to decide what happens to you and your children."

The preliminary hearing for the tribunal will be held at the Wellandport Community Centre at 10 a.m. Dec. 19 to determine who will be allowed to speak. and what issues will be considered at the main hearing

Anyone who wants to be considered during the preliminary hearing must make a request in writing to the hearing planner by 4 p.m. Dec. 15 to eva.pietrzyk@ontario.ca. After the preliminary hearing Dec. 19.

the main hearing will begin Jan. 19 at the same location, starting at 10 a.m.

> dan.dakin@sunmedia.ca Twitter: @dandakinmedia

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■ RECREATION: Work underway to allow outdoor skating at Chestnut Park

Rink wish granted

QMI Agency Niagara

He knew there was a chance the reception would

be chilly. But that wasn't about to stop Noah Abdelmaksoud.

The 11-year-old was on a mission when he marched into Port Colhorne council chambers lastMonday night with a request he was hoping councillors couldn't refuse.

"My friends and I were looking to build an ice rink for the city," the youngster said point blank.

"I enjoy skating. I think it's fun for everyone. He boped to see a temporary rink built in the Chest-

nut Park area in the city's east end. Abdelmaksoud asked

whether Port Colborne's fire department could help flood the rink and suggested with Lakeshore Catholic High School right next door, the school's construction students might also be willing to lend a hand.

Ward 2 Coun. Angle Desmarais credited Abdelmaksoud for bravely coming forward not only with a valid request, but also with recommendations of bow to make it happen.

The Grade 6 St. Therese Catholic Elementary School student had initially approached Desmarais and her Ward 2 counterpart Yvon Doucet with a petition filled with signatures of those hoping to see the rink happen. About 80 names have been collected

to date. Desmarais asked that council support the ask, which was then approved. City staff wasted no time

and last week got the ball rolling on working out the project logistics. Chief administrative officer Bob Heil said there are a "few bumps" that

need to be worked out, but that the project is on the move A meeting is being scheduled by Desmarais and Doucet for Saturday afternoon in the Vale tre's Golden Puck Community Room for anyone interested in being part of the project. A time has yet to be determined.

"We'll be discussing the logistics and the realities. like how we get water to (the rink), how we guarantee no one uses it after dark," Doucet said.

The exact location will also be discussed. There's potential, he said, to put the rink on top of Chestnut Park's existing basketball court.

Lakeshore Catholic construction technology teacher Tino Nuccitelli said the school and its students enjoy teaming up with the city on commu nity projects, and the rink would be no different.

Discussions about a potential partnership for the project were expected to take place in the near future

Ward 3 Coun. Frank Danch, who owns Frank's Home Hardware Building Centre in Port Colborne. said he would provide the plastic that would act as a liner for the rink.

As someone who has built outdoor rinks in the past, he also offered his time to the project. Once details are worked

out, the city will provide the first flooding of the rink with assistance from the fire department. Heil

When the rink is up and running, it's expected that the community will take ownership and volunteers will clean and maintain it. Doncet said

Desmarais said she would like to see the rink operational, weather permitting, in time for the Christmas holidays for children to use during their time off from school

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ECOLOGY

Campaign asks Ontarians to watch for Asian carp

OMI Agency Niagara The invaders are at our doorstep. Their goal is to enter

our Great Lakes. They must be kept at bay or they will use the largest freshwater lake system as their personal playground.

The threat posed by Asian carp to the Great Lakes is not a new one, but it is one in which the public must remain vigilant, the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters warns. As part of its invading spe-

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OFAH has launched a campaign it hopes will contribute to the efforts of the federal and provincial governments in keeping Asian carp out of

the Great Lakes. The campaign made its way to Niagara Falls Wednesday night for the second of five information sessions planned

for communities that would be hurt by an invasion. The threat to the Great

its tributaries since The carp are voracious eat-Lakes posed by the Asian carp was set in motion with their ers, pushing aside native speimportation into the southern

cies to obtain food. They multiply quickly, exacerbated by the fact they have no natural enemies in their new home. In addition to the threat posed to local fisheries, they are a danger to boaters. The fish are known to leap, en masse, as much as three metres out of the water, fright-

ened by the sound of a boat motor These breaches - by fish that can weigh as much as 45 kilograms - create lifethreatening hazards to recre-

ational water neers "They are the gold standard for being very good at being very bad," said federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans biologist David Marson at Wednesday's information session at the Hilton Fallsview Hotel and Suites. which attracted five members

Asian carp have made their way up the Illinois River, into the Chicago River. A popula-

1970s, said Alison Kirkpatrick. Lake Michigan, but they have OFAH monitoring and infornot advanced further since mation management special-2006, Marson said.

Fish farmers there used the carp to clean the water in their commercial fish ponds. The carp escaped into nearby rivers following floods in the 1990s, and have been wreaking havoc on the ecosystems of the Mississippi Basin and

Canal, 60 kilometres inland from Lake Michigan. Marson and his provincial counterpart, Kurt Oldenburg, ecology supervisor for the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry's Lake Erie management unit, are working together to keep Asian carp out of the Great Lakes.

Great Lakes, the U.S. Army

Corps of Engineers built an

electric fish barrier across the

Chicago Sanitary and Ship

Marson said the federal government has imposed a ban on the importation of live Asian carp, a popular food among people of Asian descent, into Canada.

Asian carp have been caught in the Great Lakes, but because catches have been few and far between they are not believed to be the result of

migration. Three Asian carp were caught in the Grand River at Dunnville in 2013, but those grass carp - one caught by an angler, the other two caught in nets during DFO's early warning detection surveillance

Lakes, but absent any catches program - were found to be of reproducing Asian carp it is triploid." believed the DNA came from Triploid Asian grass carp triploid carp, feces from birds are sterilized fish. It is believed that have eaten an Asian carp the grass carp caught in the or other remnants of eviscer-Grand River were escapees ated fish prepared for eat-

To prevent the carp from gaining a foothold into the

2012 photo.

DFO save

intentionally.

The DFO and MNRF regu-

larly take Great Lakes water

samples and check for the

presence of environmental

DNA related to Asian carp.

This surveillance tool has

resulted in the detection of

Asian carp DNA in the Great



used for aquatic plant control. waterways Approximately eight Aslan

"They do pose a real threat grass carp have been caught to the Great Lakes," Marin the Great Lakes and their son said. "It's really importributaries since 1985, the tant to get the message out in order to prevent establish-Three reproductive bigment. We want a lot of eyes head Asian carp were caught out there looking, and that's in western Lake Erie between the idea with OFAH and our 2000 and 2003 but it is other partners to really get the believed they were released message out there. We want people out there looking for

them. The OFAH's invasive species awareness program includes identifying features of Asian carp on its website (www.invadingspecies.com) and advertising campaigns with its partners that include signage at strategic locations throughout the Great Lakes noting a hotline (1-800-563-7711) and website (www. asiancarp.ca) to report sight-

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ings of invading species. rob.houle@sunmedia.ca



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риото

Kilee

LOCALNEWS

Helping young moms strive for success

OMI Apency Niagara It was news that sunk her

heart into the pit of her stomach. She was scared. She was anxious

She was 16. When Kilee Winterford-Nadeau learned she was about to have a baby, she knew she had no other choice but to grow up quickly.

"It was devastating," admitted the now 18 year old. "But I knew there was no other option. He was my child. I was ready to make the brave journey toward a hard life."

Winterford-Nadeau had been out of school since the seventh grade. Riddled with anxiety, she had tried several times to go

back, but was never able to make it stick. After the shock sank in about the pregnancy, she knew she had to steer her life toward getting an education

and a proper job to support herson But the question remained,

She was introduced to the services at Strive Niagara - a non-profit organization that helps young moms get their education and their lives back on track - and began taking Healthy From the Start prenatal classes at the agency's

Welland office. The staff made her feel at ease and provided her the support she needed, ensuring she felt comfortable enough

to return Sure enough, only six weeks after giving birth to son Ryker Washburn, Winterford-Nadeau was back in the classroom ready to better herself.

ing on a combination of high school courses and life-skills classes aimed to help her find

balance as a new mom Strive Niagara's in-house childcare program, for ages six weeks to six years, meant she also needn't worry about how her little guy was doing. Instead, all she had to do was stroll down the hall to check.

Winterford-Nadeau is now in her second year of the program and she's not only surviving, she's thriving. She's on track to graduate in June with her high school diploma and has plans to

head to Niagara college to pursue a career as a youth and couples' counsellor. "It's amazing what this place has allowed me to accomplish," she said while

sitting in one of the agency's "It has given me a whole new chance. It has helped me centre in on what I want to do, given me a focus. It has

helped me to figure out what my passion is and given me the opportunity to pursue it." Winterford-Nadeau's is one of many success stories that has risen from Strive Niagara's programming, executive

director Sandy Toth said. The organization runs programming in Welland, St. Catharines and Niagara Falls and helps on average between 175 and 190 young women a year - many of whom pursue post-secondary opportunities

following their graduation. Formerly known as Adolescent Family Support Services of Niagara, Strive Niagara recently underwent a rebranding in an effort to better promote and raise aware ness of its services in the com-



Toth called it key to ensure that when a young mom comes to Strive Niagara that she feels respected and not judged.

"Otherwise, she won't come back. "When they come in they're often so used to being judged in the community." Toth said. "That's why it's so important

for us to put our blases on the back burner and realize they need the support, need the respect and help along the way to get where they need to go." Young moms are moms regardless of their age and

Strive Niagara is there to help to help them become the best parents they can be, Toth "It's so rewarding to see them transition into great parents and successful students

with great goals."

with District School Board of Niagara, high school teachers are brought in three days a week to provide the program's educational components. Community workers fill the remaining two weekdays with life-skills lessons includ-

ing goal-setting, self-esteem building, budgeting, child development and cooking. Guest speakers are brought in to discuss post-secondary ontione se well se leeuee euch as domestic violence and sex-

The life lessons have been invaluable to Winterford-Nadeau, who has been able to ease ber anxiety, improve communication with boyfriend Kevin Washburn and gain a better understanding of the bond she shares with her

"It feels like the sun just

Through a partnership came up and I'm seeing things so clearly now," she said.

Strive Niagara recently launched a young dads program at its St. Catharines location for ages 14 to 23. There's potential it may be expanded in the future if funding is available. Toth said. The organization's Welland

location, 285 East Main St., was recently chosen as the recipient of Niagara College's 2015 Many Hands project. Students will help to transform the building, home to the agency since 2006, into a "more welcoming, bright

and friendly place," renovating the front entrance as well as other areas of the building. Toth said Work is set to begin in Jan-

maryanne.firth@sunmedia.ca

PROVINCIAL HONOURS Niagara officer given award for bravery

OM! Apency Niapara

Nlagara police officer Jacob Smits has been awarded an Ontario Medal for Police Smits, a constable with

the Niagara Regional Police, is among 16 firefighters and six police officers receiving Ontario's top honours for bravery. The announcement was made last week by the Ontario government. On July 24, 2012, Smits was

involved in a brief foot chase with an 18-year-old suspect wanted for a minor probation violation. The incident happened near River Rd. and Otter St. in Niagara Falls.

At one point, the suspect jumped over the concrete retaining wall and fell down the hill toward the gorge. In an attempt to stop him from falling, Smits also went over

the wall. At an inquest earlier this vear. Smits said he told the suspect to stop, fearing he might be injured. He reported seeing him on the other side and went going over the wall to save him

from falling. Both men fell into the gorge area. The suspect did not survive, and Smits suffered major injuries and did not return to work until February 2013.

An independent body from the firefighting and policing communities representing all Ontario regions determines

medal recipients. A total of 253 Ontario police bravery medals have been awarded since 1975.

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Nominations open for chamber President's Awards

OMI Agency Niagara

It's time to start thinking about the best citizens and businesses along the Lake Erie choreline Nominations are onen for Port Colborne-Wainfleet annual President's Awards The deadline for nominations is Fish 16 and will be followed by the awards reception March 25.

Chamber of Commerce's and new business of the year. The Women in Business award will be presented to a business in Port Colhorne or Wainfleet owned and/or operated by a woman. Home-Six awards will be prehased businesses are eligible sented, including for business for nomination. The Citizen

sented to someone who has made major contributions to the community in the form of volunteer work or other selfless acts Two awards will be pre-

for nominees 15 to 19 years old who have had a positive impact on the community through volunteer work. contributions to the community while living with a sented to youths. The Youth disability, an act of heroism

model. Similarly, the Junior Youth Citizen of the Year award is for children ages six to 14. Nomination forms are available on the chamber website. www.pcwchamber.com.

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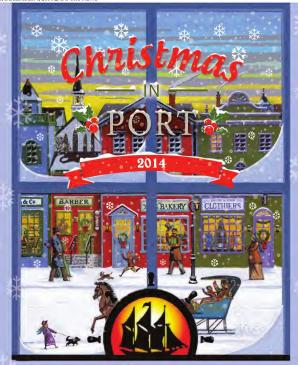
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SATURDAY DECEMBER 6TH 2014

The Port Colborne Lioness presents "Breakfast with Santa"

Seoting at 90m and 10:30om for a poncoke breakfost, including coffee or juice and a visit with Santa at the Port Colborne Lions Holl. Tickets ore \$6.00 and may be purchosed at Tucks Jewelers or from a Lioness.

Santa Arrives Downtown By Tugboat at 1pm

Experience a tradition unique to our city as Santa arrives in Port Colborne- on the deck of a tugboot in the Wellond Conol.

Greet Sonto olong with the Music Depot Choir on West Street and walk to Guild Holl for music, crofts, hot chocolote and photos with Sonto (o nominol fee may apobly).

Port Colborne's Annual Lighted Santa Claus Parade

Beginning at 6:30pm from Port Colborne High school and troveling south an Steele Street to Clorence Street to West Street. Moking its way south on to West Street to Charlotte Street, the parade will then trovel west on Charlotte Street to end of the Morket Square; in front of City Holl. Children are then welcome to visit with Sonta at the Guild Holl and enjoy hot chocolote. Port Colborne Optimist's Club will be collecting non-perishoble food and toy donations along the route for the Food Bonk.



PORT COLBORNE WWW.PORTCOLBORNE.CA

SUNDAY DECEMBER 7TH, 2014

Grand Old Christmas Festival
Noon to 4pm at the Port Colborne
Historical and Marine Museum. Enjoy
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the children hove their photo token with
Sonto. Experience o true traditional
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Ed Sullivan's Rockin' Christmas at the Roselawn Theatre

"A reolly big show!" beginning ot 2pm showcosing the music of Jerry Lee, Big Bopper, Ritchie Volens, Everly Brothers, Brendo Lee and Buddy Holly. Tickets ore \$29. For more information or to purchase tickets, coll 905-834-0833.

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DECEMBER 8TH-13TH, 2014

Pudding and Sauce Week at Arabella's Tea Room Arobello's Teo Room serves Christmos pudding ond souce from 2-4 oll week. Locoted ot the Port Colborne Historicol

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thristmas - IN-PORT



Festive Fun, Stores Galore and More!

Celebrate Christmas in Port Colborne

There's no need to drive out of town or dread Christmas shopping this year. Instead, while giftgathering, come experience small-town spirit at its finest, and treat yourself to Tugboat Santa. horse-drawn carriage rides, and sweet, sticky pudding, served with hot apple cider, among many other festive surprises!

"When you shop downtown Port Colborne," according to BIA Marketing Chair Rosemari Poisson, "you're getting the smalltown feel, the personal service which you're not getting in the big box stores. There are so many unique stores here. You can park your car and stroll, all while soaking in the scenery. of the Welland Canal. We have a vibrant downtown, so it can be a whole experience coming here."

"We have different groups in the city working together." Poisson adds, hosting events to make the holiday season special and memorable for visitors of all ages. The BIA sponsors Tugboat Santa, the City of Port Colborne sponsors the Parade, the Port Colborne Lioness Club sponsors the Breakfast with Santa, and each year, the Port Colborne Museum presents the Grand Old Christmas Festival. Meanwhile, merchants make it their business to offer service with a smile, and welcome shoppers along West Street and district, where shops like The Canalside Kitchen Store.

Crew's Quarters, and The Picket Fence Gift Shop offer gourmet baskets and every kitchen gadget imaginable. along with gifts galore for all ages, while Jacks Toy Store on Clarence St. sells creative educational toys, along with free gift wrapping.

Relive the thrill of being a kid in a candy store and fill your stockings at Candy Safari, a fun boutique brimming with ret candles and an abundance of treats. Specialty shops like The Honey Bee on West St., Heavenly Chocolates on Kings St., and the British Baking Company on Charlotte St. offer delicious homemade honey and an assortment of sweets at home-baked goods, ready to serve guests or bring to-parti as great hostess gifts.







From our family to yours.

On behalf of members of Port Colborne City Council and City Staff, may I extend best wishes during the upcoming holiday season.

Mayor John Malone



Celebrating

Thank you to all the children who submitted Port Colborne Christmas art for the City's 2014 Christmas card These five images were chosen. Congratulations to Maddison, Kaitlyn, Megan, Ireland and Leah, who will be the holidays together featured on the Mayor's float in the Christmas Parade on Saturday, December 6th.



Maddison Catchpaw



Kaitlyn Kerrigan Grade 4. St. Therese School



Megan Sardella



Ireland Worrall Grade 4, McKay School



Leah Jensen Hotte Grade 5. Oakwood School

🛸 Christmas – IN – PORT 🗱





Who wouldn't want a gift certificate to a local spa, salon or lovely shop? Harmony on West creates soap and body care onsite, and features home décor and a full line of baby care, clothing and accessories.

Port Colborne has the added distinction of becoming Canada's first official Fair Trade City, and exotic coffees. teas, and an exquisite assortment of ethnic handcrafted items are available at Ten Thousand Villages, a store founded on Fair Trade principles.



JOY TO THE WORLD May peace and goodwill prevail this holiday season.

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Florists, jewellers, antique shops, book stores and Niagara Crafters are fun to browse, and you can truly enjoy your shopping trip by stopping in to recharge at a number of excellent downtown restaurants. Whether you like Asian. Thai, Greek. Italian, Mexican, fresh seafood, or crave a cup of cappuccino, Port Colborne has a taste temptation to suit every palate.

Make your time spent more memorable by pairing a great meal with one of the City's holiday traditions; join the locals Ining the streets to see the spectacle of Santa arriving by highoat. or the parade. Take a child to make old-fashioned crafts at the familyfriendly Grand Old Christmas Festival. Enjoy a concert at the Roselawn Theatre. Meet a talented local artist. Pageantry, music, colour, and

Christmas culture



The Port Colborne Lioness presents



Kick-start the festive season with a hearty breakfast and help support a local charitable organization: bring your favourite youngster and your appetites to the annual Breakfast With Santa on Saturday, Dec. 6, where you're guaranteed to see a spectacular Santa Claus.

"I cannot stress enough how great this Santa is," says Lioness Claudia Brema, adding the jolly old elf will make his annual morning mealtime appearance at the Lioness Hall on Chippawa Street in Port Colborne.

"He's unbelievable," she says, and Mrs. Claus is also scheduled to accompany him for the occasion.

Diners can choose from two seatings: 9 a.m. or 10:30 a.m., and enjoy a delicious big breakfast, including pancakes and sausage with coffee, tea, or juice, followed by fun time with the Clauses in which every child will be given an opportunity to pose for pictures with Santa and receive a special festive surprise.

Tickets cost \$6 and may be purchased at Tucks Jewellers on Clarence Street, or from any Lioness. Sponsored by ADM Milling, which supplies the pancake mix for the event and CRS Specialties, this event usually sells out, according to Brema, and is the major annual fundraiser for the Port Colborne Lioness Club.

Tickets will also be available to win two gigantic homemade stockings "jammed full" of goodies says Brema. She can be reached at 905-835-0188 for more information.



🧱 Christmas - 📭 PORT 🌠



Festive Fun, Stores Galore and More!

Port Colborne's Annual Lighted

Santa Claus F



City staff take great pride in sponsoring the parade, and consider it a prime opportunity to bring a diverse cross section of the community together.

According to Events Coordinator Allaina Kane, "The Santa Claus Parade is a fabulous way to provide entertainment and community spirit at no cost, to everyone from community members who come and decorate the floats. to everyone who bundles up and waves at the side of the road and collects their candy."

Because the City of Port Colborne hosts a lighted parade, everyone who enters has to be a bit more creative when designing their floats to make sure they can be seen in the dark, says Rosemari Poisson, Marketing Chair of the BIA.

"It's amazing how many people line up for the Parade at night. The West Seneca Marching Band has been here the last five to seven years and they're coming back. They are a real draw "

Also marching while making music along the parade route the local Lakeshore Catholic School Band and Notre Dame's Drum Line will join more than 50 colourful entries that include a variety of community groups, minor sports organizations, local day cares and businesses,

Bundle up and bring the family to enjoy this heartwarming annual tradition on Saturday, Dec. 6.

The parade will start at 6:30 p.m., leaving Port Colborne

High school and travel south on Steele Street to Clarence Street to West Street. Making its way south on to West Street to Charlotte Street, it will then travel west on Charlotte Street to end at the Market Square, in front of City Hall. Children are then welcome to visit with Santa at the Guild Hall and enjoy hot chocolate. Members of Port Colborne Optimist's Club will collect non-perishable food and toy donations along the route for the Food Bank.

More information is available by calling 905-835-2900, ext. 533.

Santa Arrives Downtown v Tugboat

Rosemari Poisson is ready to don he special red coat on Saturday, Dec. 6. As Marketing Chair of the BIA, this is her fourth year welcoming Santa when he floats into town on

a tugboat along the Welland Canal. "Once I see all the kids' smiles." I'm in the Christmas spirit," she says, acknowledging that this colourful local tradition is unique to Port Colborne. "We're focusing on that small-town feel."

Each year, children's faces light up when they see Santa make a stop along West Street. All are invited to gather at Harbourmaster House at 1 p.m. to greet Santa, along with students from the Music Depot Choir.

Once he's officially welcomed, "We stop traffic and walk across to the Guild Hall with the kids," explains Poisson,

Children enjoy the opportunity to stroll with Santa to the Guild Hall at

the Market Square, where they can make crafts and pose for pictures with Santa (at a nominal fee) by photographer Precious LaPlante. Free hot chocolate and treats will be served from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Poisson cautions: "Just remember, it is a working canal," so Santa is scheduled to arrive at 1 p.m., but the timing depends on shipping traffic that day.

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Old Christmas Festival

Soak in some heritage, fun and culture, guaranteed to get you in the Christmas spirit!

Experience holiday traditions the way they were celebrated by our ancestors at the Port Colborne Historical & Marine Museum, on Sunday, Dec. 7, from noon to 4 p.m.,

Take a holiday trip back in time and melt away stress with a fun alternative to current-day Christmas celebrations. Make memories with your family-ride in a real horse-drawn carriage, have your photo taken with Santa or create your own festive wreath decorated with elements gathered from nature.

Try some seasonal roasted chestnuts or caramel apples and sip hot apple cider, along with delicious food prepared by Mary Jane from the

Stroll through Port Colborne's picturesque heritage village decked in greenery and bows. Visit the Blacksmith Shop and try your hand at cutting your own piece of log, then have it branded with this year's official stamp, or print a card on a heritage press. Best of all, you can take your creations home for gifts or souvenirs.

Pick up more unique presents at the Craft Sale at the L.R. Wilson Heritage Research Archives and at the museum's gift shop, located at 280 King Street.

Sit back and enjoy Christmas music and a true traditional treat: homemade Christmas pudding with caramel sauce, served with a hot cup of tea at the adjacent Arabella's Tea Room. For more information, call 905-834-7604



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🧱 Christmas - IN - PORT 🗱



Festive Fun. Stores Galore and More!

Ed Sullivan's Rockin' Christmas at the Roselawn Theatre

"A really big show" hits the elegant Roselawn Theatre stage on Sunday. Dec. 7, when Ed Sullivan's Rockin' Christmas presents a unique theatrical combination of music and comedy. starting at 2 p.m.

Take a musical time-out for yourself or purchase tickets for the music-lover on your list. Tickets cost \$29

Showcasing the music of Jerry Lee, Big Bopper, Ritchie Valens, The Everly Brothers, Brenda Lee and Buddy Holly, this nostalgic show is sure to resonate with baby-boomers, and fans of 1950s Rock & Roll will be Rockin' Around The

Joining the hilarious Jef Brown-starring as Ed Sullivan, international touring artist Jeff Giles, the amazing "Man in Black" Jim Yorfido, and award-winning songstress LoraLee McGuirl from Scotland are all scheduled to appear.



The musical portion of the show features a toetapping mixture of 1950s Rock & Roll classics combined with Christmas favourites performed by top-notch tributes to Paul Anka, Brenda Lee, Buddy Holly and the Everly Brothers. As a bonus, the all-star cast will also perform hits by Jerry Lee Lewis and Ritchie Valens.

Tickets are on sale now, available by calling 519-834-0833, or they can be picked up at the Roselawn Theatre box office, located at 296 Fielden Avenue.



Arabella's Tea Room serves Christmas pudding. steamed with its popular "secret" sauce all week from Dec. 8 through Dec. 12.

Sit back and savour one of Port Colborne's sweetest traditions at the Historical and Marine Museum, or take some home to enjoy. More information is available by calling 905-834-7604.



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New Holiday Exhibit: The Wish List Christmas wish lists and expectations were much different years ago.

Wondering what you might have made or bought for friends and family at the beginning of the twentieth century? Gain a new perspective on the holidays by reflecting on some popular items dating back to the early 900s in this festive exhibit that considers what was topping Christmas lists of old. eatured daily from noon to 5 p.m., the exhibit is open from Nov. 24 through Dec. 20 at the ort Colborne Marine Museum on King Street.

Happy Holidays









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On Dec. 12 and Dec. 19, visit a variety of unique, friendly stores. which will stay open longer to help you finish your holiday shopping, from 5 to 9 p.m.





Festive Fun, Stores Galore and More!



Shopping at Something Else - a store that defies description - is an artfully fun experience, where you're sure to find something completely different for everyone on your list, and this year, owner Gail Todd is delighted to welcome Port Colborne artist Yves Thrace Lauzon-formerly of Montreal-showcasing a retrospective of his work at the store from Dec. 12 to 14.

Lauzon-who moved to Port Colborne to be closer to familyis a man of seeming contradictions, a quality that's reflected in his art. By turns passionate, lively, and animated, he's also gentle, soft-spoken; serene. All these characteristics-and many more-emanate from his one-of-a-kind creations. Like many, Lauzon shares a passion for boats, which has

made living near Lock 8 "a dream come true" for the French Canadian artist. His technique for capturing them on canvas, however, is

decidedly unique. Accompanied by his pint-sized puppy, Elsa, they sit for hours by the Canal, absorbing the ebb and flow of passing ships, and he takes copious notes, Later, when the mood strikes him, Lauzon recreates bows and sterns, masts and mainsails, all in his "lyrical abstract movement my way" style.

His lifelong love affair with art began at age five, when his mother discovered a drawing he did and mistakenly thought it was the 14-year-old neighbour's artwork. Later, he was slapped in school for adding too much shading when asked to draw a potato, told it "looked dirty."

Inspired by boats as well as birds, Buddha, and heroes like Abraham Lincoln-among many other subjects-Lauzon also describes his style as narrative, "There's always a story expressed in my painting."

"There's often writing in his work," explains his wife, Françoise, "either in the background or in the foreground." The free-flowing calligraphy of his vertical and horizontal abstract poetry has an instant calming effect.

Infused with intensely rich, vibrant textures in mostly reds. blues and golds, his paintings yearn not only to be seen, but to be touched, as well as heard. While experiencing Lauzon's larger-than-life paintings, the word movement repeatedly springs to mind, whether gazing at his many ships, or lively wind-blown willows. The enormous turquoise Japanese gong - set amidst a velvety black background - appears to vibrate with colourful waves of sound, and his renditions of phoenixes spark a powerful sense of rebirth.

A career highlight career came in 1989, when Lauzon's art in the Biennial of Canadian Painting was granted a mention of excellence in composition by Rene Huyghe, curator of the Louvre in Paris.

In addition to appearing in 30 solo and group exhibitions in several Montreal galleries and abroad, Lauzon's work has also been featured at the Rockefeller Centre in New York, and he was selected by the Conseil de la Peinture du Quebec to form an exhibition in 1997 to 1998, which was deployed to many cultural centres and museums in Ouebec.

Influenced by Hans Hartung, Georges Mathieu, Jean Paul Riopelle, and many others. Lauzon keeps a workshop in Montreal, but his home - and his heart - have definitely relocated to the land of many ships.

Lauzon says he will welcome the chance to share some of his work created during the last 25 years with his fellow "boat nerds," Port Colborne neighbours, and anyone looking for an original Christmas gift, or to start their own collection. He will appear at Something Else, located at 244 West St., from 5 to 8 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 12; from noon to 5 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 13 and from noon to 4 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 14.



New Year's Eve :arniva

Ring in the New Year Dec. 31 from 2 to 6 p.m. at the Vale Health & Wellness Centre with free skating, swimming, face painting, cookie decorating, games, a shoot-out competition and a Mad Scientist show, followed by a fireworks display in the field behind the Vale Centre at 6 p.m. For more information, visit www.portcolborne.ca

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INPORT NEWS THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2014

COMMUNITY

Kids get push to start skating

QMI Agency Niagara

Dale Vernelli tried skating once. He didn't have much success He wants to get back on the ice soon

"It just seems like it would really be fun to be able to skate," said the eighth-grader at St. Mary Catholic School in Welland.

He's excited knowing he'll soon be able to learn, with assistance from PenFinancial Credit Union's award-winning Skates for Kids program, which is supported by a number of community partners and which launched its

collection program last week Through the Skates for Kids program, two Niagara elementary schools are chosen each year to receive donated pairs of skates for

each student to take to the ice.

St. Mary was selected to benefit through the 2014-15 campaign because it's considered a high needs school, with many children and their families living at or below the poverty line. Most of these students have never been afforded the luxury of learning to skate. participate in on-ice recreation programs or organized ice sports because they don't own a pair of skates.

They live in this (arena) community, but many of them have never accessed the arena," said acting principal Scott Root.

"This could lead to a life-changing opportunity for some of these kids," He hopes to have St. Mary students walking to the nearby facility once a week, after Skates

for Kids wraps up early in the new year. St. Alfred Catholic Elementary School in St Catharines will also benefit from this year's

campaign The program goal is to eventually supply every elementary school in Niagara with ice

skates available to all students. This year, the aim is to accumulate 700 pairs of skates and 700 helmete *When we announced to the kids last month they had been chosen, they were all very excited," program co-ordinator Josh

Juhlke said during the collection campaign launch at Welland Arena. "I can't stress just how much fun you kids will have when you hit the ice," credit union

CEO Bob Watson said to a select few students participating in the Rose City launch. "It's a really happy time," he added.

"What I get out of it is seeing so many young people enjoying themselves: Brad Boyes, a player with the National Hockey League's Florida Panthers who has

been a program ambassador since 2009, sent greetings via video during the campaign launch. He left supporters with something to think about

You never know where the next NHLer will come from," he said. Skates and helmets can be dropped off at

any PenFinancial Credit Union branch. To date, the Skates for Kids program has donated more than 2,200 pairs of skates and more than 1,000 new CSA approved helmets to Niagara schools.

COMMUNITY: Even \$1 a week can make a difference

United Way campaign on track

CREC FURMINGER QMI Agency Niagara

Knock on wood - United Way of South Niagara's fall fundraising campaign seems to be going according to plan

"It's going great," campaign chair Mark Melloni said last Tuesday "No complaints so far The executive director of the organization that last year helped to fund 31 community

programs concurred. "We're pushing forward just as planned," said Tamara Coleman-Lawrie.

But that's not to suggest people can be complacent. The organization needs support. "Even \$1 a week from every employee

 when it all adds up, it's a tremendous impact," Coleman-Lawrie said, encouraging people to get involved in workplace fundraising campaigns. So far, 28% of the United Way's \$650,000

target - up \$50,000 from last year's successful campaign - has been met. The figure does include some regularly reported workplace campaign funds. Other businesses report their successes once all employee contributions have been added

Coleman-Lawrie said the organization that serves Welland, Port Colbome, Pelham and Wainfleet needs support to continue to be able to invest in programs that better their communities, as it has done for more

than 50 years

"If you can donate \$10 and that's all you can afford - that's great, we welcome that: Last Tuesday night was a big fundraiser for the United Way

The Clark family, which owns both M.T. Bellies and Riverstone Event Centre, again hosted a major campaign fundraiser - It's A Las Vegas-themed night featured Dean

Martin, Frank Sinatra and Elvis impersonators and showgirls - the entertainment which had been kept a secret. More than \$7,000 worth of donated items were up for auction. Guests who paid \$150 a ticket were also served a six-course meal

The Clark family this year is also matching any new business donations up to

Meanwhile, the Farlow family, owners of Welland Toyota, is offering to match dollar for dollar those of new leadership donors who contribute \$1,000 or more, up to \$20,000. Renewing leadership donors who

increase their donations by more than 10% will also be matched And, Everyday Heroes is a campaign that encourages people to donate \$1 a day. The goal has been to find 100 people to sign up for the campaign, which would bring in an

additional \$36,500. Melloni said he looks forward to a book drive in January, which has started to come

together through his business Urge to Purge. Details of that fundraiser and other events will be announced later.

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■ HEALTH: Immunizations urged to stop spread of illness Tests confirm Niagara's first flu case

GRANT LAFLECHE OMI Agency Niagara

Any doubt that the flu season has arrived in Niagara was crased by the public health department last week when it announced it had recorded its first lab-confirmed case. Dr. Mustafa Hirii said tests carried out on

an infant revealed a strain of influenza A.

"Because there is no real treatment for the flu, we don't do regular tests," Hrif; said.
"What we do is tests on a schedule through the season to try to get a sense of what is going on in the community."

Although this is the first lab-confirmed case this season, Hirji said it is unlikely to be Niagara's only case. "That baby had to get it from someone,"

he said. "So yes, if you have a lab case there is very likely a lot more of it in the community."

There why blist continues to recommend

That's why Hirli continues to recommend everyone get the flu vaccine. He says it is the single best way to protect yourself and your family from the flu.

The elderly, the young and the chronically III are most vulnerable to the flu, which causes coughing, sneezing, a sore throat and fever. The flu kills about one thousand Canadians each year.

Hirji said most of the region-run flu clinics are over, but there are still some clinics being run in Thorold, Welland, Niagara Falls and Fort Erie. There are also general immunization

FLU FACTS

Flu germs from a sneeze can travel up to six feet and can live on surfaces for up to 48 hours.

The flu vaccine is a safe, effective way to prevent liness, hospitalization and even save lives. Serious reactions from the flu vaccine are rare. Most common reactions may include soreness, redness or swelling at the injection site lasting up to two days. Hand washing, sneeting or coughing into your sleeve and staying home when you are sick reduces the risk of the flu. Source: Ontario Ministry of Health and Cone-term Care.

clinics held every Thursday that offer the flu shot.

However, he said, the vaccine is still widely available at walk-in clinics and through the more than 200 family doctors in Niagara. Pharmacists can also give the flu shot.

"It takes about two weeks after getting the shot for you to be protected from the flu, so the sooner you get your vaccination the better? Hithi said.

For more information on public health flu shot clinics, go online to niagararegion. ca/health/vaccinations/flu.

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POLICE

Festive RIDE launch results in multiple arrests

OMI Agency

Seven drivers were arrested and six more had their licences suspended during the first night of the Niagara Regional Police Festive RIDE campaign. The NRP increases its RIDE

and two officers worked checkpoints in Niagara Falls and St. Catharines Saturday night. Around 400 vehicles were checked, with 34 roadside breath tests administered. That led to seven drivers being arrested for

Officers also handed out six three-day licence suspensions and 18 provincial offence notices for issues such as G2 drivers with alcohol in their system or document-related offences Police said in Niagara Falls.

"Police wish to remind drivers that it

on his cellphone as he pulled into the checkpoint Another driver admitted to having smoked marijuana earlier in the day, but was not found to be impaired.

when impaired either by alcohol or any illegal or prescription drugs," the NRP said in a release about the RIDE launch.

dan dakin@sunmedia.ca Twitter: Ødandakinmedia



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Lakeshore celebrates its arts



Rachel McCartney and Sam Stutz get ready for Lakeshore Catholic High School's Art Fusion night. Last Thursday's event, which featured a glow-in-the dark gator swamp theme, featured a showcase of students' visual arts, music, photography, culinary and construction skills, and was open to the public.

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THE TRIBUNE



Canal workers memorial down to four designers

OMI Agency Niagara

The design for a memorial to honour the men who died

building the Welland Canal should be ready for public input by February. But even when the design is

finalized it won't actually be built until 2017, due to construction by the St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corp., said Rebecca Cann, the cultural services supervisor for the City of St. Catharines. Cann said a city task force

created to get the memorial built recently received the plans from the four shortlisted designers The group will selected one

of the four, review the design and by early 2015 turn to the public for input.

"It's important to remember that the design is likely to go through several changes before the process is finished." Cann said

The task force is pushing to have its work completed by July 23, which is the 100th anniversary of the first recorded death during

canal construction. Meeting that deadline will also allow the task force access to federal funding through Heritage Canada

The memorial to honour the 131 men known to have died building the canal will be constructed at the St. Catharines Museum at Lock 3.

It was chosen because of its visibility, accessibility to the public, along with access to washrooms and other services inside the museum

While the design work is expected to be completed before July, the memorial itself cannot be installed until 2017, Cann said, because of ongoing construction in the атеа

Although the installation is three years away, Cann said that won't impact access to federal funding for the project.

> grant.lafleche@sunmedia.ca Twitter: @orantrants







Pharmacists

FLU VACCINE

It is time to start thinking about getting the Flu vaccine. Each year an average of 20,000 people are hospitalized, and between 2,000 and 8,000 Canadians can die of influenza and its comelications Those most likely to suffer complications of the flu are the most vulnerable; children under two and adults over 65. The seasonal influenza vaccine is safe and effective and can benefit people of all ages. The flu shot only provides protection up to 12 months; immunization is required each year. This year's flu shot protects against the H1N1 flu virus as well as two other strains of flu. October to mid-November is the best time for immunization, but the vaccine may still be given in winter months. Who should get immunized? The following is a list from the recommended guidelines.

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Inaugural skating show will be house party

BERNIE PUCHALSKI OMI Agency Niagara

For four-time world figure skating champion Kurt Browning, there's something special about being a performer in the first skating show at a new facil-

The World Figure Skating Hall of Member member and Tessa Virtue and Scott Molz, two-time Olympic silver medallists, will be the headliners of the inaugural Skate Niagara Lee Show Jan. 30 at Meridian Centre in St. Carbarines.

"When you're off the ice it's like 'First year, claimed it' and it's kind of like a house party," the 48-year-old said.

And for the fans in attendance, it might be their first visit to the Meridian Centre. "Together, there's a synergy

and an energy that you don't get in from other venues and I've learned that over the years," Browning said. He lowes skating in shows and

spreading the gospel of figure skating.

"I can remember that first moment a guest skater came to my home club. I was inspired and I feel any chance we have to get out there — not on television — but in person to shake hands, sign autographs and inspire do the cause one of the greatest ways to give back to the sport its to inspire the next generation."

SKATE NIAGARA ICE SHOW

Where: Meridian Centre. When: Jan. 30 at 7:30

Headliners: Tessa Virtue, Scott Moir and Kurt Browning. Local flavour: Olympic

Silver medallist Kirsten Moore-Towers from St. Catharines and new partner Michael Marinaro and Nexotice synchronized skating team from Burtington, which includes Emma Bonafiglia from Beamsville. Tickets: \$49. available

Dec. 5 at Ticketmaster and Meridian Centre box office. When Browning heard San-

When Browning heard Sandra Bezic was producing and directing the show, he was quick to sign up. Bezic was co-creator of CBC's Battle of the Blades and producer/director of Stars on Ice for 11 secons

"I'm completely here for selfish reasons," he said. "Any chance I get a chance to work with Sandra I jump at it.

dra I jump at it.

"She is probably 85% responsible for most of all the nice things ever said about me. We are going to have a lot of fun."



ICE SHOW

Kurt Browning was on hand to help announce the inaugural Skate Niagara leo Show to be held at the Meridian Centre in St. Catharines on Jan. 30. The show will feature former Olymple and world champion skaters, such as Tessa Virtue and Scott Moir.

Browning attended a Wikh k beingin Ontario ki sextra

Browning attended a news conference Tuesday at the Meridian Centre in St. Catharines to publicize the show while Moir and Virtue did phone interviews that were played live at the press conference. Virtue called from London, where she is finishing a psychology degree at the Uni-

versity of Western Ontario.

Her and Molr are exploring carreer options on and off the ice.

"It also means that any chance we have perform now, since we not at the competitive circuit, is really exciting and exhilarating," she said. "So Jan. 30 in Naaara will be that much more

meaningful because we are really relishing every chance we have to perform?

Moir echoed that excitement. "We have a little hit of a different season this year, not compeling as amateurs. It's nice to have the opportunity to do shows like the one [an. 30 in St. Catharines.

With it being in Ontario, it is extra special."

The ice show is more than just filling dates at the new spectator facility, said Ken Noakes, the

Meridian Centre's general manager.

"This is the type of event this building was built for When you spend the amount of money St. Catharines spent on this building, we want to make sure eveyone gets in here and eniovs it."

he said.
"It's not just a rock and jock palace. It's not just for hockey players. It's not just for rock concerts. It is truly for everyone."

Noakes has high expectations for booking plenty of events at the Meridian Centre. "We want to see 110-120 event days in this building but it's going

to take a little time to build it," he said. "It will take a few years." Noakes didn't want to estimate how many days would be booked in 2015.

QMI Agency Nagara
Are you Niagara's next Guy
Fien, Jeff Probst or Julie Chen?
Niagara's three daily newspapers are expanding their
online broadcasting presence,

and are looking for a few good hosts to be the faces of these shows. The Tribune, The Standard and Niagara Falls Review, and their five related weekly newspapers, plan to bring more video-based produc-

tions online in 2015, so they're extending a casting call for onair talent.

"We're looking for someone with an awesome personality who has a great screen presence," said Standard publisher Mark Cressman. "Someone

who feels comfortable interviewing other people and isn't afraid to get their hands ditry." In 2014, The Tribune, The Standard and Review raised the bar for daily newspapers across Canada by offering more than a dozen live broadcasts and numerous produced shows that brought in tens of thousands of viewers.

"Video and live broadcasts have become an important part of what we do when delivering news in Niagara," said Standard managing editor Erica Bajer, adding that video complements the comprehensive traditional coverage in our print products. "It provides another dimension to our news coverage." the skills and expertise we learned in 2014 to even greater use next year," Bajer said. "We've proven that whether we are livestreaming a press conference or producing a live election show, there are no houndaries to how we can use video in our online story-telling. To say it's an exciting time in online news gathering would be an understatement."

show looking at some of the best and most unique establishments in the region, will return in 2015 with a new host and many new restaurants. That type of sponsored content with an editorial focus is seen as a valuable way to deliver a different type of

Niagara Dines, the weekly

"Niagara Dines is not a traditional news item, but it hainterest and value to our audience — it's entertaining and engaging." Baier said.

engaging, Bajer said.

We'll also be looking for hosts for other new online video projects we'll soon be announcing.

"I am very excited to launch our new shows in 2015. For anyone who thinks we are just a print newspaper company, I would suggest you watch what we have up our sleeves in the coming months," Cressman

r brica Bajer, adding that deep complements the comwhensive traditional coverte in our print products. "It
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■ CONCERT: Meridian Centre Dec 8 & 9

Holiday hoedown with the Oak Ridge Boys

OM Agency Niagara

For years, they were a gospel band. Then a country hand. Then the 'Elvira' band. But in recent years, the Oak Ridge Boys have redefined themselves as something else: A Christmas band.

For 25 straight years the Tennessee foursome has done a Christmas tour, and as always, it's their biggest time of year. For Richard Sterban, who provided the 'Oom Pa Pa Mow Mow' for the band's iconic hit Elvira, it's a second wind no one saw com-

In fact, when the Oak Ridge Boys released their first Christmas album in 1982, simply titled Oak Ridge Boys Christmas, it was hardly fashionable. Only 12 Christmas albums - ever - had gone gold at that point. Now, virtually every major artist has released one. Two years ago, the Oak Ridge Boys released their

sixth Christmas Time's A.Comina The festive trend started when Kenny Rogers invited the band to be the opening act for his annual Christmas tour 27 years

"We saw what he was doing and learned from him, basically," says Sterban. who joined the band in 1972. We got to thinking, if Kenny Rogers is doing this, we could probably do it too. Kenny inspired us to do our very first Christmas tour

It was a natural fit. That four-part harmony which helped win them five Grammy Awards made the Oak Ridge Boys perfect for holiday tunes

"We have a very unmistakable sound ... we sound different than everybody else," he says. *Just starting there, that makes our Christmas albums a little different. "That four-part harmony lends itself to

Christmas, especially traditional Christmas muste." The band reaches deep into the stock-

ing for this anniversary tour, which hits the Meridian Centre in St. Catharines Dec. 8 and 9. They get the hits out of the way first (Elvira, Bobbie Sue, American Made). then run the gamut of Christmas tunes. Like past tours, the band relaxes in rocking chairs at one point to talk about their childhood memories of Christmas, then ends the show with "sacred" songs,

"That balance we've been able to find on our CDs as well as our Christmas show is a key to the success of it." More and more, fans flock to Oak Ridge

Boys concerts for the "brotherhood" of it all, says Sterban. The current lineup — Sterban, Duane Allen, William Lee Golden and Joe Bonsall - has been intact for 41 years, Bands the Oak Ridge Boys influ-



The Oak Ridge Boys bring their 25th anniversary Christmas tour to the Meridian Centre Dec. 8 and 9.

IF YOU GO

WHO: The Oak Ridge Boys WHERE: Meridian Centre, St.

WHEN: Dec. 8 at 8 p.m., Dec. 9 at 2

TICKETS: \$25 to \$55, www. ticketmaster.ca

genuinely like each other.

enced have come and gone since then. "And I might add this - we do not plan to retire any time soon," he says. Friendship is key. Hokey as it sounds, all four Oak Ridge Boys are best friends who

"When we were younger, I have to admit sometimes we would get on each other," says Sterban, "Now that we've gotten older, maybe we're too old to let little things bother us. Duane Allen put it a great way: Better than singing in harmony is living in harmony. That's what we've

been able to do over the years." Tradition is important, he adds, but they aren't adverse to mixing things up. For their 2009 album The Boys Are Back, young producer David Cohb (Shooter lennings, Jason Isbell, Rival Sons) convinced the band to do a cover of the White Stripes

rocker Seven Nation Army "He said, "Trust me, this is going to be a good song for you guys, but at the same time we want to stay true to who you are* recalls Sterban, "A lot of the instrumental parts on that song we did vocally. It still sounds like Seven Nation Army, but it has that unmistakable Oak Ridge Boys sound

through it "There's a line we can't cross, You can do some things differently, but you've got to stay true to who you are.

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REVIEW

The Standard THE TRIBUNE ROYAL LEPAGE



■ THEATRE: Oz comes to convention centre

Make way for The Wizard

QMI Agency Niagara

The yellow brick road leads to the Scotlabank Convention Centre For its annual musical.

Linus Hand Productions is bringing The Wizard of Oz out from behind the curtain. The classic musical opens Dec. 5 for six public performances to go along with matinees for local schools.

As always, the show is a mix of professional actors and students from Hand's acting academy for kids on Thorold Stone Rd. While most of the major roles are filled by yeteran stage talent, a trio of Niagara teens will take turns playing Dorothy.

Alternating shows will be: Morgan Hilliker, 14; Olivia Shad, 16; and Erica George,

IF YOU GO

WHAT: The Wizard of Oz WHERE: Scotiabank Convention Centre, 6815 Stanley Ave. Niagara Falls WHEN: Dec. 5 to 13 TICKETS: \$25 local adults, \$20 local kids.

Phone 289-213-8001 'I didn't want a 26-year-old acting 15," says Hand, who has been producing major musi-

cals in Niagara Falls for the past decade. In recent years, he's brought Annie and Oliver! to the stage.

But few children's roles carry the workload of Oz's Dorothy. who is in virtually every scene and requires vast energy (and vocal chops) to pull off. Hand the ruby slippers are up to the

"Not only can they sing and

dance. I know they can handle the pressure." It takes a lot of work memorizing the lines and choreog-

raphy, but it's all great," says Hilliker, "It's really fun to be doing it." "If we want to do this with our lives when we're older, it

helps us," Something like this doesn't come along every day," adds George. "Usually this is cast as an adult, but they're trusting us with this part."

For Shad, it's more than just a good rendition of Over the Rainbow - The Wiz is nonstop energy.

"The show requires a lot of stamina, because not only is (Dorothy) in every scene,



From left, Morgan Hilliker, Olivia Shad and Erica George share the role of Dorothy in The Wizard of Oz, opening at the Scotiabank Convention Centre Dec. 5.

and stage design to make the

she's also high energy in every Hand as the Wizard. The show also stars Alex

Dvorak as Scarecrow, Andrew J. Hampton as the Tin Man, Brian Duffy as the Cowardly Lion. Michelle Nash as Glynda, Jennifer St. Ange as the Wicked Witch and Mark

Director Molly Atkinson-Kansas any more. Powell, who also did last year's production of Oliver!;' says it's always a challenge bringing something new to The Wizard of Oz. Without a on our own large budget, it's up to the cast

audience feel they aren't in "The story's so iconic," she says. "Kids ask if we're going to do things like in the movie. I tell them no, we'll create it

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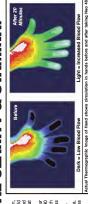
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